



## RECORD'S RECORD

By Lee Record  
USGA Green Section  
Mid-Continent Agronomist

The spring of 1969 will be remembered by superintendents throughout the mid-west. Desiccated areas have responded slowly due to the unseasonable cool spring. Bentgrass has filled in slowly, soil temperatures have not reached a peak to encourage optimum growth. Desiccated areas varied . . . in some cases, exposed greens which normally dry out from whipping winds haven't; protected greens which should have weathered the storm are weak.

We see a particular pattern on those greens which came through the winter in excellent condition. Early watering, up to 1000 gallons per green applied in late February and early March look good. Heavy applications of topdressing last fall, or those heavy topdressers through the season came in with flying colors. Toronto looks to be a superior bent to stand up under adverse conditions. Thatch accumulation played an important role; thatch under  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch made it, thatch in excess of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch dried out. Non-walk off and non-cupping areas where thatch builds up are the weakest areas on most greens, and the slowest to recover.

Aeration, topdressing, spiking overseeding, syringing, light frequent fertilizer application, you name it, it's been tried and the results to date are poor. Soil temperatures and a good warm spring rain could not be found during the past two months.

Bermudagrass on fairways in the Kansas City - St. Louis area was killed out on many courses. Zoysia looks to be the promising grass to use on fairways until a winter hardy Bermuda come along. Perhaps a combination of Bermuda, Zoysia and Bluegrass will win out . . . oh yes, **Poa annua** grows well with all three and it was a beautiful spring for **Poa**. Only one trouble, if you killed out the **Poa** when the Bermuda was dormant, silver crab came in. If you let the **Poa** alone, it came on so fast and furious, it held back any Bermuda which might have made it. Now that **Poa** is about gone and the Bermuda isn't there; silver crab is still bouncing around . . . you think you have troubles.

Bernie Belknap licked the labor problem. Bernie is the soft spoken superintendent at Rolling Hills Country Club, Wichita, Kansas. Miss Joy Baker is in charge of the new tri-plex greens mower Bernie uses on greens. Handles the machine like a top . . . don't go away, Joy is one of four girls Bernie employes of his twelve man, whoops! . . . crew. The girls work in sections and take care of traps, greens and tees. Nicest looking bunkers you ever saw. Bernie is pleased with their work; they do a day's job, don't gather around the drinking fountain, haven't talked back and come in seven days a week. What more can you ask for?

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